

Message Text

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22

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGR-05

COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 AID-05

/063 W

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R 050415Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7430

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

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DEPARTMENT PASS FAS/USDA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, AGR, AS

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SUBJECT: FURTHER EXTENSION BY PROTOCOL OF INTERNATIONAL WHEAT

AGREEMENT (IWA)

REF STATE 025344

1. EMBOFFS DISCUSSED EXTENSION IWA WITH KEVIN BAKER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, COMMODITY POLICY DIVISION, DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TRADE, DRAWING ON MATERIAL IN STATE 025344. BAKER TOLD US THAT AT WORKING LEVEL AUSTRALIA NOW GENERALLY FAVORED TWO YEAR EXTENSION IN PARALLEL OF WTC AND FAC BECAUSE: (A) IT SEEMED LIKELY THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR CHANGE MIGHT NOT BE CONCLUDED WITHIN ONE YEAR; (B) THEY TOO HAVE TO GO THROUGH COMPLICATED PROCEDURE TO OBTAIN APPROVAL OF EXTENSION AND FUNDS FOR FAC CONTRIBUTION. BAKER SAID THAT ALTHOUGH IN PAST AUSTRALIA HAD BEEN INCLINED FAVOR ONE YEAR EXTENSION WITH NEGOTIATED NEW AGREEMENT WITHIN THAT TIME, THEY NOW FEEL THAT TWO YEAR CONCEPT IS "HOBSON'S CHOICE" AS THEY DO NOT BELIEVE U.S.G. AND EC CAN IRON OUT DIFFERENCES WITHIN A YEAR. BAKER ADDED THAT WHILE HE HOPED GOA POSITION AT LONDON MEETING WOULD SUPPORT TWO YEAR EXTENSION, HE EXPECTED DELEGATION WOULD BE GIVEN OPTION TO ACCEPT ONE YEAR EXTENSION AS FALL BACK POSITION IN EVENT EXPECTED LDC OPPOSITION TO TWO YEAR EXTENSION NOT READILY OVERCOME.

2. BAKER WAS CAREFUL TO POINT OUT THAT FOREGOING IS OPINION OF WORKING LEVEL PUBLIC SERVANT WHICH ORDINARILY COULD BE EXPECTED TO EASILY WIN MINISTERIAL APPROVAL. AT THE PRESENT TIME, HOWEVER, THERE IS A COMPLICATING FACTOR THAT MAY WELL RESULT IN AUSTRALIA INSISTING ON A ONE YEAR EXTENSION. NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED SHOW IT ECONOMIZING ON GOVERNMENT SPENDING. UNDER THESE CONSTRAINTS PROSPECT OF BUDGETING APPROXIMATELY \$A 25? MILLION FOR ONE YEAR RATHER THAN \$A 50 MILLION FOR TWO YEARS MAY APPEAR POLITICALLY ATTRACTIVE TO MINISTERS.

3. BAKER PROMISED INFORM EMBASSY WHEN FINAL INSTRUCTIONS ITS DELEGATION HAVE BEEN APPROVED.

4. AS AUSTRALIA EXPECTS LONDON MEETING TO BE LARGELY OPERATIONAL AND OVERSEAS TRAVEL FOR CANBERRA PUBLIC SERVANTS STRICTLY CONTROLLED, GOA WILL BE REPRESENTED BY F.P. DONOVAN, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MINISTER (COMMERCIAL) AT THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN BRUSSELS.

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